

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b> ACAF Academic Affairs		<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> ACAF 1.05
<b>POLICY TITLE</b> Tenure Progress Review of Faculty: Third Year Review		
<b>SCOPE OF POLICY</b> USC System	<b>DATE OF REVISION</b> May 2, 2019	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b> Office of the Provost	

## PURPOSE

The tenure progress review evaluates each tenure-track faculty member to ensure that the faculty member and the academic unit are aware of the progress of that faculty member relative to the unit's criteria for awarding tenure.

## DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

**Probationary period:** length of time allowed for a tenure-eligible faculty member to earn tenure. The maximum probationary period is defined in the respective *Faculty Manual*.

**Tenure Clock Extension:** approved extension of the maximum tenure probationary period following [ACAF 1.31 Extension of Faculty Tenure-Track Probationary Period and Scheduled Post-Tenure Review](#).

## POLICY STATEMENT

In most cases, tenure-track faculty members in their probationary period are formally reviewed during their third academic year at the University. A tenure progress review of a tenure-track faculty member ensures that the faculty member, the academic unit and the college or school are aware of the progress of the faculty member relative to the unit's criteria for awarding tenure. This review allows the faculty member to take corrective action before the tenure decision year, and ensures that the faculty member gains familiarity with the process of application for tenure. It also allows the dean to decide more formally whether the faculty member is making satisfactory progress towards tenure.

A faculty member requesting a tenure-clock extension prior to the tenure-progress review may concurrently request an extension of the tenure-progress review.

## PROCEDURES

### A. USC Columbia

#### 1. Review Process

- a. During the second semester of the faculty member's second academic year at the

University, the dean/department chair must inform the faculty member that in the following year he/she must submit a tenure progress file to the unit tenure and promotion committee. The faculty member must also be explicitly informed that the review process does not positively or negatively affect the institution's ultimate decision in connection with the faculty member's future application for tenure.

- b. The faculty member must follow the usual tenure and promotion file format, process, and calendar for submission of the tenure progress file, with the following exceptions:
  - i. Neither the faculty member's unit nor the faculty member should solicit outside reviewers' statements or letters of support;
  - ii. Individual ballots may be used during the unit committee's deliberations, but are not included in the file; and
  - iii. The file and supporting materials are not forwarded past the dean.
- c. The chair of the unit tenure and promotion committee must draft an evaluation letter of the faculty member's progress toward meeting the criteria for tenure. The letter must specifically address the candidate's progress in each of the unit's tenure criteria. In addition, the unit tenure and promotion committee may also choose to include written evaluations from individual committee members. The letter(s) should be addressed to the next level of file review (i.e., chair or dean) and copies should be placed in the file and sent to the faculty member.
- d. Each further review step up to and including the dean must review the faculty member's tenure progress file and write a detailed evaluation of the faculty member's progress in terms of the unit criteria for tenure. The written evaluation must be sent to the faculty member and a copy placed in the file.
- e. When the dean has completed the review of the faculty member, the dean should have a conference with the faculty member to discuss the results of the evaluation. The faculty member must receive a copy of the dean's written evaluation prior to the meeting. The tenure progress file must be returned to the faculty member after the conference with the dean, but a copy of all evaluation letters must be retained in the faculty member's personnel file in the dean's office.

## 2. Timing of Tenure Progress Review

If a faculty member's maximum probationary period is extended in accordance with policy [ACAF 1.31 Extension of Faculty Tenure-Track Probationary Period and Scheduled Post-Tenure Review](#) or the [Faculty Manual](#) at any time prior to submission of the tenure progress file, the tenure progress review timeline outlined in this policy can be extended for the same period of time.

Alternatively, the department or unit chair and the dean can approve requests from the faculty member to be reviewed earlier in their probationary period, such as during the second year rather than the third year.

**B. Comprehensive Universities and Palmetto Colleges**

Each comprehensive university and regional Palmetto Colleges should develop individual campus-based procedures to implement this policy.

**RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES**

[ACAF 1.31 Extension of Faculty Tenure-Track Probationary Period and Scheduled Post-Tenure Review](#)

[ACAF 1.60 Modified Duties Semester for Faculty](#)

[USC Columbia \*Faculty Manual\*, Section 2: Regulations and Policies, under heading Annual Performance Review, Third-Year Review, and Post-Tenure Review](#)

[USC Palmetto College Campuses \*Faculty Manual\*, under heading Tenure and Promotion Regulations and Policies, Annual Evaluation, Third Year Review, and Post-Tenure Review](#)

**HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

<b>DATE OF REVISION</b>	<b>REASON FOR REVISION</b>
February 5, 1995	New policy approval
December 1, 2014	This revision updates the procedure to accommodate the Family Friendly policies
May 2, 2019	Policy revised to update campus nomenclature and to clarify timeline for extension of tenure progress review.